

**Missouri Assessment Program
Spring 2005**

Communication Arts

Released Items

Grade 3

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Directions

This is a true story about how people live in the Amazon rain forest. Read the story. Then answer Numbers 1 through 6.

Seasons of the Amazon

by Charnan Simon

The Amazon River flows thousands of miles through South America. Hundreds of smaller rivers flow into the Amazon. Surrounding all of these rivers is lush, green rain forest.



During the low-water season children can walk to school.

It is always warm in the Amazon rain forest. There isn't a cold season and a hot season. Instead, the seasons are marked by how high the river waters get. During the low-water season, rivers are low and the land is mostly dry. But when the rainy season comes, the rivers of the rain forest rise—and rise—and rise. Floodwaters cover the rain forest for miles and miles. Every year the rivers of the Amazon rain forest flood this way.



But in the rainy season the canoe is the only way to get there.



Stilts will keep these houses dry during the high-water season.

The rain forest is home to many people and animals. They depend on the trees and the rivers for food, water, and shelter. They are used to living in low-water seasons and in high-water seasons.

The rivers rise so high during the high-water season that people build their houses on stilts. They make rafts for their pigs and

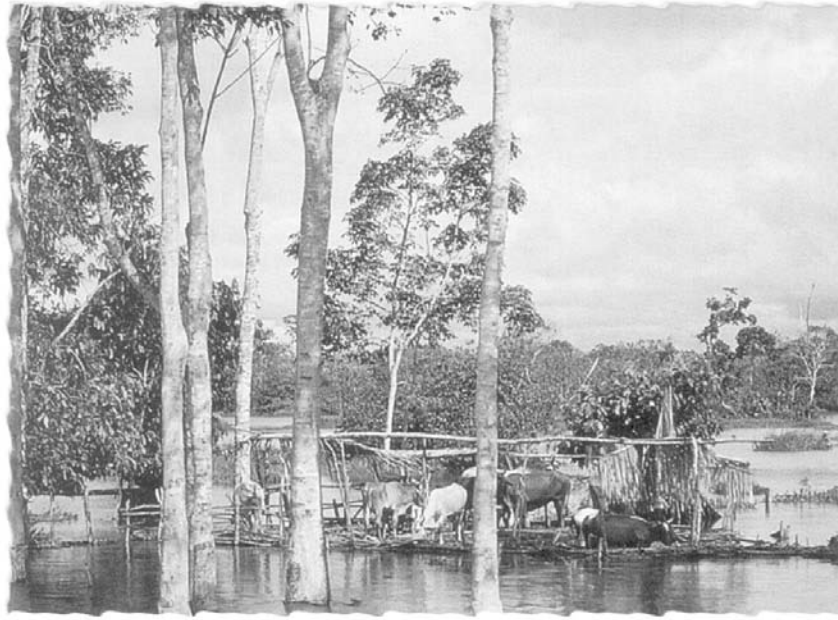
cows to float on and bring their chickens onto the front porch. When the roads are covered with water, people travel by canoe. They paddle deep into the flooded rain forest to find fruits, nuts, and other foods.

During the high-water season, the rivers sometimes reach as high as the tree branches. Fish and turtles and lizards swim among the



Some people live in floating houses that rise and fall with the river.

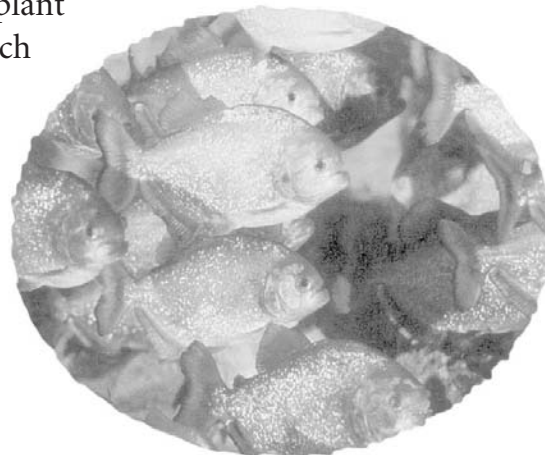
Go On ►



These cattle live on floating rafts during the rainy season.

branches, eating fruits, nuts, and seeds. When they swim downstream, they spread these seeds for miles around. After the floodwaters dry, the seeds begin growing in the rich river mud. The flooded rivers help the animals find food. The animals help the trees spread and grow.

After a few months, the rainy season ends. The fish and turtles are swept back into the rivers. The sun comes out and dries up the floodwaters. People plant corn and beans in the rich mud left behind. Pigs once again root around on the ground instead of floating on rafts. High-water season is over—for this year.



These piranha fish help spread seeds.

1

What is the main problem for the people of the Amazon rain forest?

Explain your answer using TWO details from the story.

2

Compare how people and animals in the rain forest live differently during the high-water and the low-water seasons. Complete the chart using information from the story.

SEASONS OF THE AMAZON

High-Water	Low-Water
1. _____ _____	1. _____ _____
2. _____ _____	2. _____ _____

Go On ►

3

Read this sentence from the story.

“They make rafts for their pigs and cows to float on”

What does **rafts** mean in the story?

Explain in your own words what you found in the story to help you understand the meaning of **rafts**.

4

Imagine you live in the Amazon rain forest. Circle your favorite season.

High-Water Season

Low-Water Season

Explain your answer using TWO details from the story.

Pretend you live in the Amazon rain forest during the high-water season. Write a letter to a friend describing how you live. Use THREE details from the story in your description.

DO NOT WRITE HERE ↴

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6

Do the people of the Amazon use good ways to solve the problems of living during the high-water season?

Circle one: YES NO

Explain your answer using TWO details from the story.

WRITING

Directions

Now you will write a paper in response to a writing prompt. First, read the prompt in the box below.

Then use the separate paper your teacher has given you for your prewriting activity (such as brainstorming, listing, freewriting, clustering, mapping, or drawing).

After you finish your prewriting activity, write your first draft on the separate paper your teacher has given you. Look back at your prewriting activity for ideas.

Writing Prompt

The stories you have read are about nature. Pretend you are outdoors and it begins to rain. Write a story about how you could spend that day.

Go On ►

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FINAL COPY

Directions

Now you have time to revise your draft. Reread your draft and think about the Writer's Checklist below. Check every box that makes a true statement about your draft.

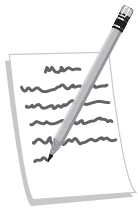
Writer's Checklist



- ☐ My paper has a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- ☐ My paper stays on the topic.
- ☐ My paper uses details and examples that support the topic.
- ☐ My paper has complete sentences.
- ☐ My paper includes correct punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

For every box you did not check, make the needed changes on your draft before you write your final copy on Pages 5 through 10.

Please use **ONLY** a Number 2 pencil to write your final copy.



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Handwriting practice lines consisting of 18 horizontal lines.

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